



HERODotNET (<http://www.herodot.net>)

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LOCAL ORGANIZER – Institute of Geography University of Tartu (46 Vanemuise St., Tartu, 51014, Estonia)

Jüri Roosaare, Associate Professor, HERODOT (email: roosaare@ut.ee)

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Project

SUBJECT:

The new system of 3+2 year education and curriculum change in geography

*Due to the 'contemporary' nature of much of its curriculum, geography relates very closely to **key issues facing Europe** in the new millennium. A list of these might include European environments, European identity, cultures, economic change, natural landscapes and demographic change. Geography as an academic subject provides key skills for lifelong learning, for example spatial skills and the concept of place. These are of paramount importance in Europe as boundaries disappear and enlargement processes continue. [HERODotNET Project application]*

Proceeding from the Bologna agreement and according to other activities of the Bologna Process the universities of Europe are introducing an accordant system of 3+2 year education. For many of them it means considerable changes in the curriculum and structure of education. This process is also a challenge for geography to assure a good place in competition with concurrent disciplines for capable students.

In accordance with one of the aims of the HERODOT Network:

- *to facilitate curriculum development in Geography and Geography Education programmes by European collaboration*

A HERODOT seminar will be organised in Tartu, Estonia in order to:

- discuss the potential, problems and threats associated with the introduction of new 3+2 curriculum from the geographical point of view;
- indicate aspects of good practise of different countries;
- find effective ways of co-operation in curricular development, in using different mobility schemes and integrated programmes of study, training and research (submission of research and other applications for European funding).

Organisers are working to identify keynote speakers for sessions but we ask all participants for contributions. We would like to receive contributions on, among others, the following issues:

- How forthcoming changes in the national educational paradigm due to the Bologna Process will have an effect to geographical education?
- How to assure that your students obtaining the first (Bachelor) degree in three years are able to continue their education in other universities of Europe?
- What possibilities are/should be open in the job market for students confining themselves to the first degree (3 years) only?
- In some disciplines (e.g. in geoinformation science - see <http://www.zgis.at/euromastergi/>) there are attempts to introduce a special European master degree. Are such aspirations vital for other parts of geography, too? Or what kind of activities would you recommend for Europeanisation of postgraduate education in geography? Is it possible to establish a European Charter for Geography in higher education? Is it possible to 'TUNE' the Geography curriculum in Europe?

FORMAT:

Abstracts of the presentations delivered timely will be copied for participants and electronically published after review in a HERODOT publication on the state of Geography in Europe.

Our **meeting** will consist of sessions of paper presentations (preferentially – MS Powerpoint presentations) followed with extended discussions.



Scientific papers (on the basis of presentations) will be prepared by the authors after the meeting. The papers will be peer revised and published in a special issue of the *Publicationes Insituti Geographici Universitatis Tartuensis*.

TIME SCHEDULE

April 28th – deadline for abstracts and registration

May 16–18 (Friday...Sunday) 2003 – SEMINAR

August 1st – deadline for full papers

PROBABLE VENUE

Conference Centre of the Hotel “London” (located in central part of Tartu).

Tartu, a marvellous town of 100,000 inhabitants in South of Estonia is located 186 kilometres southeast from Tallinn and has a very good bus connection with Tallinn.

Tallinn is connected by air with Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Vienna, Vilnius, , Moscow, Kiev and Warsaw, , Tallinn has railway connections with St. Petersburg and Moscow. Regular ferry connection is maintained with Helsinki and Stockholm. The harbour and airport are not far from the bus station and participants can get to the bus station or city centre by buses, tram or taxi.

Buses to Tartu depart from Tallinn Bus Terminal approximately every half an hour. Bus schedule and further travel information will be provided with final information package.

The bus ride from Tallinn Tartu takes around two and half hours. Tartu bus station is located downtown, not far from conference hotels (5 minutes walking)

FEE and other EXPENSES

The conference participation fee is **100 EURO**. It covers reception, corporate dinners, refreshment during the meeting, papers and excursion.

Accommodation and travelling expenses should be paid separately by the participants themselves. The organisers will help (during the application procedure) to reserve accommodation at affordable price close to the seminar meeting place.

If any members of HERODOT require specific financial help, she/he should contact with Project coordinator Karl Donert (donertk@hope.ac.uk).

LANGUAGE

The Conference language will be English.

ACCOMMODATION

There are plenty of accommodation options in Tartu. Participants can make hotel reservations together with seminar registration. All suggested hotels are located in a walking distance from the conference venue.

VISAS TO ESTONIA

Visas are not requested from citizens of the EU and most CEE countries, nor are they requested from citizens of USA and some other countries http://www.vm.ee/eng/kat_132/915.html. In case it should be needed the Organising Committee is willing to send a formal letter of invitation to facilitate the participation.

MISCELLANEOUS

TEMPERATURE in May is approximately 10-15°C. Weather in spring can change very quickly, from sunshine, calm and warm, to rain and cold. An umbrella will come in handy.

POWER SUPPLY is 220V.

EESTI KROON (EEK) is the currency used in Estonia. One EEK equals 1/15.64 EUR There are currency exchange offices in the airport, bus station, major hotels and department stores.

Most CREDIT CARDS (VISA, American Express, Eurocard, etc.) are accepted in hotels, shops and restaurants.

CONTACT

For attendance and for more information, please, contact

Mrs. Heli Raagmaa, email: heli@ut.ee

**AGENDA** (some session themes are provisional)

Thursday, 15.05.03	Friday, 16.05.03	Saturday, 17.05.03	Sunday, 18.05.03
	Registration	Session 3: Bachelor curricula issues Credit systems, quality assurance, new curricula	Excursion: it starts early morning and will finish afternoon in Tallinn in order to allow handy taking of a ferry to Helsinki or Stockholm. However, a good idea will be to stay in Tallinn for one night (many planes are leaving Tallinn in morning).
	Opening session: Following the Bologna Process TUNING Geography	Session 4: Postgraduate curricula issues (European Masters and European PhD)	
	Lunch	Lunch	
	Session 2: Aspects of University Geography in Europe	Session 5: Europeanisation of geographical education Mobility of staff and students	The aim of this excursion is to provide a look into Estonian life both in countryside and in small towns and to become aware of the social and cultural dimension of this area of Europe.
	City excursion	Closing session: Preparing and producing European bids for funding (curriculum development, research). Planning the future	
Arrival	Reception	Corporate dinner	Departure (from Tallinn)

compiled by: Jüri Roosaare (roosaare@ut.ee) and Karl Donert (donertk@hope.ac.uk)